

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## MINUTES

6:30 PM

May 09, 2011

Animal Control Complex

MEMBERS PRESENT			STAFF
James Anderson	Colin Austin	Bryant Colson	James Spivey
Matthew Hughes	Shannon Jackson	Christine Kelly-Kleese	
Lori Lumpkin	Barbara Marotto	Richard Perry	GUESTS
Preston Scott Phillips	Marty Rosenbluth	Lori Schweickert	Robert Campbell
	Jack Vogt		David Caldwell

*NOTE: Rita Anita Linger informed staff that she was unable to attend this meeting.*

### I. LANDFILL CAPACITY OPTIONS

During the April 05, 2011 Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting, staff presented three options for extending landfill capacity for consideration. As follow-up to the BOCC meeting, the HRC extended an invitation to Reverend (Rev.) Robert Campbell to attend this meeting and share his perspective regarding the proposed three options presented by staff to the BOCC. Rev. Campbell and David Caldwell addressed the HRC.

Rev. Campbell provided a compare-and-contrast summary of the proposed staff options. He explained that the proposed options prioritize monetary/financial interests over the human element, the people of the community. Rev. Campbell stated that neither of the proposed options was acceptable to him for several reasons but most importantly is that all the proposed options would extend the life of the landfill. Extending the landfill reiterated the lack of remediation for the community. He explained that verbal accounts of the living conditions endured by the Rogers Road community residents do not do justice to the reality of living in the community.

Rev. Campbell, in addition to the extension of the landfill, referenced the water contamination in the community; the lack of waterline extension/tap-on for the community; the increased number of vermin and buzzards in the community; the very offensive order of the landfill suffered by the community; the numerous illegal dump sites in the community; the lack of police presence/patrolling in the community; the posted vehicle speed limit for the community; and the lack of a remediation program for the community as major factors that negatively impact the quality and necessities of life for the residents.

David Caldwell provided an historical overview of the negative impact to the quality and necessities of life for the community residents. He cited the exodus of the community's younger generation due to the environment of the community. Mr. Caldwell referenced the illegal dumps sites and stated that property owners are financially responsible for the clean-up if the persons illegally dumping cannot be identified. He stated that with funding from a \$75,000 community development block grant (CDBG) nine (9) homes are scheduled to be connected to water and sewer. Mr. Caldwell clarified however that the scheduled connection is delayed and has been for a while due to some "hold up" by the engineers.

Rev. Campbell, Mr. Caldwell, and HRC members voiced concern that the staff, in its April 5<sup>th</sup> presentation documents, referenced *public involvement* (residents' participation) during the consideration process/implementation process as a negative. HRC members cited the BOCC-adopted Social Justice Goals which specifically referencing "enabling full civic participation" as a social justice goal in Orange County. Additionally, all parties voiced concern that staff referenced *extended site life may have negative impact on public perception* as a disadvantage. The parties perceived this as prioritizing public perception over human necessities and quality of life issues.

There was additional discussion regarding the longevity of the Rogers Road community situation and the lack of any resolution; whether the Social Justice Goal Impact Review Tool (SJGIRT) was applied during the development of the three options proposed by staff; the delay of the CDBG-funded water and sewer to the nine homes; a referenced all-encompassing list of community problems; and the need for these critical community issues to expeditiously addressed with the human factor being priority.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK VOGT AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SUBMITS A RESOLUTION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OUTLINING THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION'S CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE LANDFILL BASED UPON INFORMATION GATHERED DURING THIS DISCUSSION. VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 1 (Linger); ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg).

James Spivey was directed to draft the resolution for review by the HRC chair. The HRC Chair is to review the resolution to ensure the resolution encompasses all the HRC concerns to be conveyed to the BOCC.

## **II. MINUTES APPROVAL**

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES ANDERSON AND SECONDED BY RICHARD PERRY TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 11, 2011 MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGES. VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 1 (Linger); ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg).

## **III. BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

Colin Austin explained that the Ad Hoc committee (Colin Austin, Annette Uhlenberg, Christine, Kelly-Kleese, Richard Perry, & Scott Phillips) was formed to provide support and monitoring throughout the life of this project. Mr. Austin explained that the Ad Hoc committee will make recommendations regarding the membership of the Planning Committee. He clarified that the Planning Committee will be the group that identifies the stakeholders for this project.

There was a question as to whether the project is directed to the HRC as the lead or is the project to the County (Housing, Human Relations, & Community Development Dept.).

James Spivey explained that the application lists the HRC as the lead group which is staffed by the Orange County Department of Housing, Human Rights, and Community Development with Tara Fikes, Director and project liaison. Mr. Spivey explained that staff would normally perform the logistical tasks regarding securing a facility, contacting potential members of the Planning Committee, etc. He did state that if the HRC preferred to be responsible for the logistical tasks, staff would relinquish those responsibilities.

James Spivey also reiterated that the first meeting is targeted to take place by June 30, 2011.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARTY ROSENBLUTH AND SECONDED BY RICHARD PERRY THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Bryant Colson, Christine Kelly-Kleese, and Scott Phillips serve as HRC representatives on the Planning Committee for the Building Integrated Communities initiative.
2. Marlyn Valeiko serves as a member of the Planning Committee for the Building Integrated Communities initiative.
3. Barry Jacobs serves as a member of the for the Building Integrated Communities initiative.
4. Representation from the Burmese community is secured to serve on the Planning Committee for the Building Integrated Communities initiative.

VOTE: AYES 13 (Anderson, Austin, Colson, Hughes, Jackson, Kelly-Kleese, Lumpkin, Marotto, Perry, Phillips, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Vogt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 1 (Linger); ABSENT 1 (Uhlenberg).

#### **IV. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: LORI SCHWEICKERT**

Lori Schweickert, MD, made a presentation to the membership regarding the housing needs of Orange County residents suffering with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). Dr. Schweickert explained that from her professional experience she sees a particular need for housing to accommodate young adults with SPMI. She stated that a determination of what currently exist is needed and then an assessment of what exist should be done to determine if the housing needs of Orange County residents with SPMI are being met. Dr. Schweickert clarified that her presentation is made to the membership to ascertain whether there is Commission interest in this matter.

The membership voiced support of securing more information regarding this matter. This matter was referenced as an issue that would be aligned with the BOCC-adopted Social Justice Goals.

James Spivey explained that the Housing, Human Rights, and Community Development Department was unable to provide information regarding existing resources; existing housing needs of people with SPMI; the number of people with SMPI; organizations to speak to the HRC regarding needs of the mentally ill community; etc. Mr. Spivey explained that other County departments, non-profit organizations/agencies, and/or state agencies might be able to provide the information.

It was requested that staff research this matter and secure any available information. It was suggested that the school systems be contacted; specifically, Donna Williams and Stephanie Willis.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. AMENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE**

Jack Vogt presented a revised proposal to amend the Civil Rights Ordinance (CRO). Mr. Vogt requested feedback and asked that the membership be prepared to consider and take action on this matter at the June 2011 meeting.

James Spivey stated that the proposal should be reviewed by and commented on by Annette Moore, Staff Attorney, prior to submittal to the BOCC.

The revised proposal was accepted but concern was voiced regarding word choice in the conclusion paragraph. Mr. Vogt welcomed input for alternative wording. Once the alternative wording is received, modification to the conclusion paragraph will be made and distributed to the membership.

The membership welcomed input from Annette Moore, Staff Attorney. Additionally, staff will provide a report regarding the process for amending the CRO.

### **B. SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

#### ***1. Advocacy/Outreach***

Marty Rosenbluth will prioritize the "To Do" list of the Advocacy/Outreach Subcommittee and distribute to the Subcommittee for review and response.

#### ***2. Pauli Murray Awards***

Lori Schweickert stated that there is no update for this subcommittee.

#### ***3. Student Essay Awards***

Bryant Colson stated that Richard Perry last reported that he had received information from staff and that he would in the process of contacting people in the school systems.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. UPDATE THE HRC WEBSITE**

Concern was voiced that the Department and the HRC website should be updated to reflect the new location, new contact information, and incorporate the mission of the Department of Human Rights and Relations into the mission statement of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

**B. VOTING BALLOT FOR 2011-2012 HRC OFFICERS**

The membership voted and submitted their ballots to staff. Staff informed the membership that the official vote would take place during the June 2011 meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was . . .

***ADJOURNED!!!***